

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-11, 13-15, 19-24, 26-28, 31-33, and 37 are pending. As discussed below, the claims are in condition for allowance. **If after considering this response the Examiner continues to reject some or all of the claims, the Applicants' attorney, Bryan Santarelli, requests that the Examiner phone him at the below number to schedule a teleconference.**

Rejection of Claims 1, 5, 19, 20 and 23 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lahmeyer (US 4,649,541)

Claim1

Claim 1 recites a processor circuit operable to store a portion of a first Reed-Solomon code word, the portion being less than the entire first code word, store a portion of a second Reed-Solomon code word, the portion being less than the entire second code word, and while storing the portion of the second code word, decoding the portion of the first code word and no other portion of the first code word.

For example, referring, *e.g.*, to FIG. 8 of the patent application, during a first period, a processor circuit receives a first portion I1,1 of a first Reed-Solomon code word, the portion I1,1 being half of the first code word. During a third period, the processor circuit receives a first portion I2,1 of a second Reed-Solomon code word, the portion I2,1 being half of the second code word. During the third period while receiving the first portion I2,1 of the second code word, the processor circuit also calculates a syndrome S1,1 for the first portion I1,1 (decodes the first portion) of the first code word. But the processor circuit does not calculate a syndrome or otherwise decode the second portion I1,2 of the first code word during the third period, *i.e.*, while receiving the first portion I2,1 of the second code word. In other words, the processing circuit can effectively divide a Reed-Solomon code word into portions and decode each of these portions independently of the other portions and with less than the entire code word.

In contrast, Lahmeyer does not disclose decoding a portion of a first Reed-Solomon code word and no other portion of the first code word while storing a

portion of a second Reed-Solomon code word, where the portion of the first code word is less than the entire first code word. Instead, Lahmeyer simply discloses a “RAM swapping” feature that consists of a 3-state counter that rotates three operations (input, data processing, output) through three RAMs (col. 5 line 35 – col. 6 line 47). However, Lahmeyer can only perform these operations after receiving entire code words. This is common in the art, and the present application even discloses this in, e.g., FIG. 5 of the patent application. The Examiner also quotes col. 2 lines 7-10 of Lahmeyer, which states that code words are made up of data k and symbols n-k. This is also common in the art, and the present application even discloses this in, e.g., FIG. 2 of the patent application. After reviewing Lahmeyer in its entirety, the Applicant’s attorney is unable find any mention of dividing a Reed-Solomon code word into portions and decode each of these portions independently of the other portions and with less than the entire code word. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Lahmeyer.

Claims 5, 19 and 23

Claims 5, 19 and 23 are patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in support of the patentability of claim 1.

Claim 20

Claim 20 is patentable by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 19.

Rejection of Claims 2, 6-7, 21-22 and 24 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lahmeyer in view of Deodhar (US 4,567,594)

Claims 2, 6-7, 21-22 and 24 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1, 5, 19 and 23.

Rejection of Claims 8, 10-11, 14, 26, 28 and 32 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lahmeyer in view of Oisel et al. (US 4,566,105)

Claims 10 and 28

Claims 10 and 28 are patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in support of the patentability of claim 1.

Claims 8, 11, 14, 26 and 32

Claims 8, 11, 14, 26 and 32 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 5, 10, 23 and 28.

Rejection of Claims 9, 27 and 37 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lahmeyer in view of Oisel et al. and Deodhar

Claims 9 and 27

Claims 9 and 27 are patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in support of the patentability of claim 1.

Claim 37

Claim 37 is patentable by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 27.

Rejection of Claims 13 and 31 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lahmeyer and Oisel et al., and further in view of Oh et al. (US 5,583,499)

Claims 13 and 31 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 10 and 28.

Rejection of Claims 15 and 33 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lahmeyer and Oisel et al., and further in view of Sammartino et al. (US 6,511,280)

Claims 15 and 33 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 10 and 28.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, claims 1-2, 5-11, 13-15, 19-24, 26-28, 31-33, and 37 are in condition for full allowance, and that action is respectfully requested.

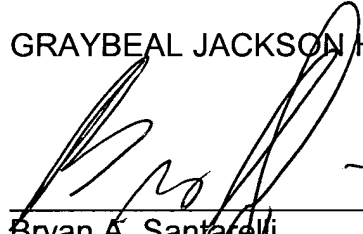
If after considering this response the Examiner continues to reject some or all of the claims, the Applicants' attorney, Bryan Santarelli, requests that the Examiner phone him at the below number to schedule a teleconference.

In the event additional fees are due as a result of this amendment, you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 50-1078.

DATED this 5th day of July, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

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